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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/615,653	07/08/2003	Eugene M. Chow	A2082	9312

28014 7590 01/12/2006

BEVER, HOFFMAN & HARMS, LLP
1432 CONCANNON BLVD
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LIVERMORE, CA 64550-6006

EXAMINER

MALDONADO, JULIO J

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2823

DATE MAILED: 01/12/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Supplemental
Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/615,653

Examiner

Julio J. Maldonado

Applicant(s)

CHOW ET AL.

Art Unit

2823

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to amendments filed on 07/05/2005.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-9, 17-24 and 31-40.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

Attachment to Communication, PTO-90-C

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Patrick T. Bever (reg. No. 33, 834) on 12/19/2005.

The application has been amended as follows: in claims 20, 22 and 24, where applicants cite, "The spring structure according to Claim 16...", change to --The spring structure according to Claim 17--.

Allowable Subject Matter

2. Claims 1-9, 17-24 and 31-40 are allowed.

3. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: the prior art of record fails to teach a plated metal layer including a first layer formed on the first surface of the free portion of the spring metal finger and a second layer formed on the second surface of the free portion of the spring metal finger having a greater thickness than the spring metal finger as recited in claim 1; wherein the plated metal layer further includes a curved portion extending from the first surface of the substrate to the free portion of the spring metal finger as recited in claim 4; wherein the substrate defines a trench located below the free portion of the spring metal finger and shaped such that when the portion of the spring metal finger is deflected towards the substrate, the free portion enters the trench without contacting the first surface of the substrate as recited in claim 17; and further including a first and second intermediate portion as recited in claim 31.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

4. Applicants are encouraged, where appropriate, to check Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) (<http://portal.uspto.gov/external/portal/pair>) which provides applicants direct secure access to their own patent application status information, as well as to general patent information publicly available.
5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to examiner Julio J. Maldonado whose telephone number is (571) 272-1864. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday.
6. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Matthew Smith, can be reached on (571) 272-1907. The fax number for this group is 571-273-8300. Updates can be found at <http://www.uspto.gov/web/info/2800.htm>.

Julio J. Maldonado
Patent Examiner
Art Unit 2823

Julio J. Maldonado
December 27, 2005

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APPLICATION NO./ CONTROL NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR / PATENT IN REEXAMINATION	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.
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10/415,453

07/08/2003

Chow, Eugene

A2082

EXAMINER

Maldonado, Julio

ART UNIT

PAPER

2823

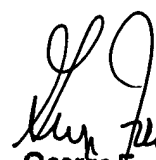
20051227

DATE MAILED:

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Commissioner for Patents

In a telephonic conversation with the attorney of record, Patrick T. Bever (Reg. No. 33,834) on 12/19/2005 it was agreed to change the dependency of claims 20, 22 and 24, from canceled claim 16 to claim 17. Attached to this communication is an interview summary with the attorney of record and a supplemental notice of allowance with the above-mentioned amendments.


George Fourson
Primary Examiner